

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A high speed safety block assembly, comprising:

a first cheek plate and second cheek plate, the cheek plates each having two ends a top end and a bottom end, the cheek plates also each having an outer surface, and an inner surface with a recessed area ~~with an axle hole located centrally therein~~, the first and second cheek plates each also having ~~a pair of raised ear sections on at least one end, each at top and bottom ends~~, the raised ear sections including a hole and an abutment forming a slot between the ear and the inner surface of the cheek plates, such that, the ear sections on the first cheek plate interlock with the ear sections on the second cheek plate, the outer surface of each cheek plate having a substantially planar surface,

~~an axle having a bearing surface, the axle being positioned between the first and second cheek plates, and fitting within the axle holes on~~ rotatably connecting the first and second cheek plates; and

a sheave positioned between the first and second cheek plates, ~~the sheave having a central hole with a needle bearing fixed within the central hole, the needle bearing of the sheave fitting onto the bearing surface~~

~~of the axle~~ the periphery of the sheave fitting closely within the recessed area of each cheek plate.

2. (Amended) The high speed safety block assembly of claim 1, wherein the axle is press fit into the first cheek plate.

3. (Amended) The high speed safety block assembly of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the axle is hollow and has a bearing surface that includes a lubrication hole ~~through the bearing surface of the axle.~~

4. (Amended) The high speed safety block assembly of claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein the sheave has a central hole with a needle bearing fixed within the central hole, the needle bearing of the sheave fitting onto the bearing surface of the axle ~~needle bearing is press fit into the sheave.~~

5. (Amended) The high speed safety block assembly of claim ~~1~~ 4, wherein the ~~first and second cheek plates have a hole through the top and bottom ends~~ needle bearing is press fit into the sheave.

6. (Amended) The high speed safety block assembly of claim 5, wherein ~~the hole at the bottom end of the first and second cheek plates is elongated~~ one or more of the holes through the raised sections is a slotted hole.

7. (Amended) A high speed safety block assembly, comprising:

a first cheek plate and second cheek plate, the cheek plates each having two ends ~~a top end and a bottom end~~, the cheek plates also each having an outer surface, and an inner surface with a recessed area with an axle hole located centrally therein, the first and second cheek plates each also having ~~a pair of raised ear sections on at least one end at top and bottom ends~~, the ~~raised ear sections forming a slot between the ear and the inner surface of the cheek plates, such that, the ear sections on the first cheek plate interlock with the ear sections on the second cheek plate~~, the cheek plates also each having a hole through the ~~top and bottom ends~~ and an abutment on at least one end, the outer surface of each cheek plate having a substantially planar surface;

~~a hollow~~ an axle with a bearing surface and having a lubrication hole through the bearing surface, the axle being positioned between and rotatably connecting the first and second cheek plates, ~~and press fit within the axle holes on the first cheek plate; and~~

a sheave positioned between the first and second cheek plates, the periphery of the sheave having a central hole with a needle bearing press fit within the central hole, ~~the needle bearing of the sheave fitting onto the bearing surface of the axle fitting closely within the recessed area of each cheek plate.~~

8. (New) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the abutments prevent rotation of the raised sections of opposing cheek plates past each other.
9. (New) The assembly of claim 8, wherein each raised section of each cheek plate includes at least one abutment.
10. (New) The assembly of claim 9, wherein each raised section of each cheek plate includes at least two abutments.
11. (New) The assembly of claim 9, wherein at least one abutment is male and at least one abutment is female.
12. (New) The assembly of claim 11, wherein at least one raised section of each cheek plate includes an ear and at least one raised section of each cheek plate includes a slot, wherein the ear includes a male abutment and the slot includes a female abutment.
13. (New) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the axle is hollow and has a bearing surface that includes a lubrication hole.
14. (New) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the sheave has a central hole with a needle bearing fixed within the central hole, the needle bearing of the sheave fitting onto the bearing surface of the axle.

15. (New) The assembly of claim 14, wherein the needle bearing is press fit into the sheave.

16. (New) The assembly of claim 15, wherein one or more of the holes through the raised sections is a slotted hole.

17. (New) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the abutments prevent rotation of the ends of opposing cheek plates past each other.

18. (New) The assembly of claim 17, wherein one of the abutments is male and one of the abutments is female.

19. (New) The assembly of claim 18, wherein at least one end of each cheek plate includes an ear and at least one end of each cheek plate includes a slot, and wherein the ear includes a male abutment and the slot includes a female abutment.